

Eversdens Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty



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Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since
the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1899 09 03

Complainant told Arrington court that on the evening in question she was going down the road at Gt Eversden with a basket of clean linen when defendant remarked "Did you tell Frank Nixon you old - that I stole his greengages". She then came out to her, spat in her face, took hold of her hair, scratched her face and made use of vulgar language. Complainant went to a shop and left the clothes and on her way back home defendant hooted her all up the road

1905 03 22

Albert Clark told the court that in November a political meeting was held at Great Eversden and afterwards he went to the Hoops public house. A man in front of him clapped his hands and called out 'Good old Tory' at which the landlord's dog flew at him and bit his thigh. He was laid up for 17 days. Harry Wick the postman and Edward Hagger a farmer said the dog had flown at other people but without biting them. The landlord said the spaniel was a very kind dog. A doctor had examined Clark and found a scratch mark across the thigh made by a dog's tooth, but it was not a bite. He was awarded two guineas 05 03 22

1910 01 21

When Captain Morrison-Bell (Conservative candidate for West Cambs) arrived at Graveley the meeting at which he was to speak had already been broken up in consequence of constant interruptions and disorderly behaviour by a section of the audience. As his car drove up it was pelted with mud and a chorus of hooting and booing, so he drove away. Later he addressed orderly meetings at Great Eversden, Croydon and East Hatley. CWN 10 01 21e

1910 05 06

Gt Eversden Polling District Conservative Association meeting 10 05 06f

1911 04 21

Francis Nixon of Rectory Farm, Great Eversden had purchased the old British School with the intention of opening it as an institute and reading room for the parishes. After his death his widow completed the work and the Nixon Hall was now opened. It will be used for the social and intellectual wellbeing of the inhabitants. Afterwards 100 people sat down to a tea and a concert given by local friends, when the hall was packed. 11 04 21f

1913 04 04

The Congregational Union heard that. West Wrattling chapel had been renovated and a new hall built at Cheveley but the chapel at Reach, built in 1863, needed to be put in repair before it celebrated its jubilee. At Castle Camps the work was becoming increasingly difficult though the pastor has not lost heart after 24 years in the ministry. Chrishall congregations are steadily strengthening, Gt Eversden had celebrated the wedding of the minister and young people continued to meet at the Nixon Hall. The most difficult station was Stetchworth where the spiritual indifference of the people was a great obstacle to progress

1913 04 11

Indian mutiny veteran funeral at Gt Eversden, Storey

1913 11 28

Various outlying portions of the Wimpole Estate in Whaddon & Gt Eversden were sold by auction with many being sold to tenants. In Eversden Mr G. Ellis bought a residence with modern bakehouse and shop, three rough-cast and thatched cottages while Holbein Farm sold to Mr Banks. A block of six modern cottages at Whaddon fetched £2,000, three thatched cottages £140 and a small-holding at Whaddon Green £550. Cambridgeshire County Council bought Pickering and Town Farms with various cottages. Only one lot was withdrawn 13 11 28 p2

1914 02 27

The undulating country between Lord's Bridge and Old North Road Stations was the scene of a sharp engagement between troops of the University Officers' Training Corps and a number of public

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school OTC contingents. The actual fighting was of a very heavy and determined character with one battle near Quarry Farm, Lt Eversden. The crisp crackle of rifle fire swelled in volume until it became continuous 14 02 271

1914 06 19

Scarce. Hay carting and gooseberry picking is now the order of the day (at the Eversdens) it being splendid weather for both. It is feared plums of all kinds will be very scarce again this year, but we hear of more fortunate neighbours— 1914 06 19

1914 07 31

Aeroplane.—On Tuesday morning, the residents of this Village (Eversden) were greatly excited at seeing a biplane soaring overhead in a north-easterly direction. - 1914 07 31

1914 10 30

Belgians – Waterbeach not help, Soham arrivals, Burwell, Bourn, Cottenham, Duxford, Gamlingay, Gt Eversden, Histon, Linton, Over, Sawston, Swavesey, Chatteris, Cheveley

1916 02 23

Gale damage. In the recent heavy gales many trees have been blown down (at Eversden), providing plenty of firewood. Mr. Freestone has lost 36 fruit trees in this way 16 02 23

1916 08 02

Dog's Tea. A certain person was having tea in the garden (at Eversden) when an aeroplane attracted her attention. When she returned it was to find a neighbour's dog had run off with the contents of her plate.

1916 01 17

Heating the Church. The large sum of £50 10s, has been collected from the residents in the two villages (Eversdens) for the purpose of erecting a new heating apparatus for Great Eversden Church. It is hoped to have it fixed as soon as possible, as it is much needed 17 01 17

1917 09 12

Heavy Fruit Crops. There have been exceptionally heavy crops of gages and plums in this district (Eversden), and fruit growers have been glad of the help of soldiers, public schoolboys, College girls etc., quite a number of whom have been employed. It has thus been impossible to avoid a great deal of waste. The absence of wasps was almost pleasantly noticeable when the plums were ripe. The longed-for sugar has arrived - nine bags of 100 pounds each. It was distributed on Saturday morning and a good lot of it has been converted into jam by now. Most people got what they ordered and were grateful. 17 09 12

1917 09 26

Stackyard fire at Eversden. At about 1.30 on Friday afternoon the alarm was given that a fire had broken out in the stackyard at the Manor Farm, Great Eversden. The fire brigade were sent for and arrived at 3p.m. from Royston. The firemen soon got to work, and so relieved the many willing workers, of whom a great number were women. It was sad to see the corn stacks burning, and the stables and granary were burnt to the ground. A heap of nine ton of coal also caught fire. To add to the excitement, an aeroplane was seen hovering around, and descended in a field behind the fire. The airman had lost his bearings and thought the fire was an aerodrome. The volunteers were put on guard while the airman had a night's rest, and next day he started off for his destination. 17 09 26

1921 02 09

OT.C. mock battle in Kingston – Gt Eversden area; cottage gutted – photos – 21 02 09b, c

1921 04 13

Gt Eversden farmhouse destroyed fire – 21 04 13b

1927 02 20

Comberton, which made itself laugh very heartily over a mock trial two years ago, staged a similar piece of amusing make-believe when the village institute put on the dignity of a "police court" and the Vicar sat in judicial pomp over the hearing of a sensational burglary case involving the theft of a pearl necklace. The "prisoner", who described himself as "a bit of a farmer and a bit of a dealer, said he was in the habit of collecting eggs by aeroplane. He admitted having a drink at Eversden – "such a slow place" - and admiring the barmaid. He was discharged and advised in future to keep clear of bars and barmaids

1929 03

Caxton Guardians heard that an elderly brother and sister from Great Eversden had been admitted to the Workhouse because they could not get anyone to look after them. Their house had been searched and £34 10s. in notes, £7 in gold and £42.13.6 in silver, making a total of £84.3.6. was discovered. It is understood the woman also has £199 in the Post Office Savings Bank

1934 03 08

A plastering contractor said he'd been told there was "a bag of money for plasterers in Cambridge" and had come from Sutton Bridge with £900 to his credit. There was a strike on at the time and he started on 20 houses in Huntingdon Road for Mr John Brignell then contracted to plaster 212 houses in Kendal Way. But another workman's strike arose – a strike that never ceased. His last contract was for houses at Harston, Eversden and Coldham's Lane. He attributed his failure to other people's bankruptcy and bad debts. 34 03 08

1934 05 17

The beautiful Church Farm estate at Eversden comprises 300 acres of open country surrounded by hills, one mile from Lords Bridge railway station. The new houses are beautifully designed by a qualified architect. Each have three bedrooms, a bathroom with chromium fittings, a spacious kitchen and electricity and company's water supplied from new Artesian wells on the estate. The price is only £550 - £50 down and thirteen shillings and sixpence (66p) weekly. 34 05 17

1934 07 06

Eversden Church Farm estate houses – advert – 34 07 06

1936 02 22

Harvey's Church Farm Estate at Eversden & Harlton offers a brick-built bungalow with an acre of well-drained land suitable for nurseries, glasshouses or poultry fattening - Mr Creighton, who lives on the Estate, is an expert and would be pleased to show you the methods. The basis of a house is the foundations and the material comes from our own sand pits at Cottenham. We use Fletton Bricks and tiles fitted by the Marley Tile Company who give a 40 years guarantee with each roof. Window frames and doors come from Newsums of Lincoln, ranges and locks by Cakebread Robey & Co while Sir William Rose & Company supply the paints and distemper and electrical installations are carried out by A.W. Matthews of Mill Road, Cambridge. Advert 36 02 22d

1942 04 24

Late Mr E, J, Hagger. The many friends of Mr. Edward John Hagger heard with deep regret of his sudden death, which occurred at Addenbrooke's Hospital after a brief illness, Born 64 years ago the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hagger, he was a native of Eversden, where, until his recent removal to Little Fen Farm Waterbeach, he farmed for many years at the Church Farm, and being keenly interested in the welfare and activities of the district, he held many public offices, among them: Chairman of Caxton and Arrington R.D.C. and Board of Guardians (now defunct) and subsequently a member of the South Cambs. R.D.C., Chairman of the Parish Meeting, Churchwarden at both Great and Little Eversden, School Manager and member of the Cambs Special Constabulary. He had also been Chairman of the Cambridge branch of the .National Farmers' Union. 42 04 24

1949 07 12

Sir – Three months ago I notified the County Council of a breakdown in the water supply of Lt Eversden; the immediate solution was found by the inhabitants themselves. This week, the village pump has failed and we have the spectacle of children taking bottles of water to the school for their personal needs, and aged inhabitants carrying buckets full considerable distances through the village. Is there nothing short of an outbreak of disease which will induce the authorities to consider the problem urgent enough – R.G. Reis

1950 02 24

Because he disapproved of his daughter's association with a German prisoner-of-war a Gt Eversden man took out his 12-bore shotgun to try and scare the suitor off. His intervention was not a success. The police took away his gun and gave it to his son for safe custody until "the trouble blew over". The German married his daughter and is now accepted as a son-in-law. This story was told in the court when father sued son for the return of the gun.

1951 05 10

South Cambs RDC considered an application for the erection of overhead electricity lines at Gt Eversden. Coun Barnes said: "I think these people are desecrating the whole countryside and they are putting all the telephones underground now". Coun Malthouse said the price was prohibitive and added "As long as we get electricity we should not worry about it". Coun Peters: "I do not think we ought to make any move which might lessen the likelihood of electricity getting into the rural areas. The main thing is to get it somehow"

1956 02 24

Great Eversden church was in a sorry state of repair. An anonymous visitor gave £100 towards restoring the chancel ceiling where there was woodworm and death watch beetle. Then parishioners realised there were people in the village who had built their own homes and did their own repairs, as well as a number of young craftsmen. So they borrowed scaffolding and did the work themselves, filling in cracks in buttresses and transforming its appearance 56 02 24

1957 11 06

'Long Thatch'. Lt Eversden damaged by fire – 57 11 06a

1960 11 09

Little Eversden is not considered to be suitable for large development and its residents want to keep the village's quiet rural character. There is provision for another 72 houses but 180 other proposals have been refused permission, a planning inquiry was told. However the developer said there was a demand for more. She wanted to build 20 houses at The Old Orchard, each on a quarter-acre plot. Although there was no drainage at present, cesspools would provide the answer until the village was put on main sewerage 60 11 09a

1964 08 14

Frank Fossey, a Great Eversden farmer, has made his own museum of outdated and disused farm implements and other items of country life. It includes everything from ploughs to gingerbread moulds together with a fly-trap used in his mother's dairy. Many inventions are only 40 years old but are already out of date and forgotten. Exhibits are housed in a thatched farmyard building dating from the 1500s and have a great attraction for local historians. [They now form part of the Farmland Museum at Denny Abbey] 64 08 14c

1964 10 26

Eversdens petition for recreation ground – 64 10 26

1965 06 15

Eversdens village festival – 65 06 15

1966 04 07

Impey new housing developments at Bartlow Road Linton, Lt Eversden & Balsham – colour advert – 66 04 07a

1967 05 24

Fossey brothers museum at Gt Eversden feature – 67 05 24

1968 01 20

E.M. Barraud of Lt Eversden publishes story of family – 68 01 20a

1975 03 30

The kitchen oven was doing overtime and the skilled hands of a skilful housewife at Lt Eversden were kneading and pressing the dough all day. The baking demon is Mrs Jill Marshall, who wants to help the village recreation ground committee out of its present money troubles. She hopes to have hundreds of hot cross buns ready by Good Friday morning. She is taking a gallon of milk a day this week, and has a sack of flour. She is no newcomer to the culinary big time. Her speciality is multiple-tiered wedding cakes.

1982 04 30

Great Eversden residents are calling their own annual meeting because the parish council have broken the law by not holding one since 1978. The chairman said they were discontinued because nobody ever bothered to turn up. Now nine parishioners have arranged one in the home of a senior civil servant who lives in the village. 82 04 30

1983 01 24

A small spinney in Little Eversden which was contaminated with lethal gas at the end of the Second World War is now for sale. Marsh Spinney was used as a mustard gas munitions store but when it was being removed in 1949 it was discovered there had been some leakage from a container. The ground was treated with a special bleach to kill the gas. Although the MoD is confident there is no danger it has written a special proviso into the deeds saying that if any purchaser wanted to excavate deeper than nine feet the ministry must be consulted. 83 01 24